

The News Scimitar

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FOUR-MINUTE MEN

What is to become of the organization of Four-Minute men? Orders have been issued by the committee on public information, under whose jurisdiction the organization has operated, to disband.

With the passing of the head of the department it naturally follows that the subordinate branches cannot continue. In many sections of the country the Four-Minute men simply will cease to function with receipt of the order. Obviously they cannot continue in the capacity in which they have served with such distinction in recent months.

It has been suggested that the Four-Minute men should hold together as a state organization as constituted at present and devote their abilities to worthy causes that will continue to arise. In this way they would take part in all enterprises of national or even state-wide importance.

In the event the different local branches should wish to discontinue their service, an organization, state-wide in its scope, might not be able to operate effectively, and local enterprises, on the other hand, might be deprived of their support.

A suggestion has been made that the Four-Minute men of each city should form themselves into a separate organization for the promotion of worthy enterprises. In this way the Red Cross membership campaign, campaigns for Christmas contributions and for local charities, and even for the promotion of the sale of war savings stamps, which is lagging in every part of the country, might be stimulated and promoted.

Under the leadership of Mr. J. W. Gates, the Memphis organization has brought together some of the best talent in the city. The Memphis Four-Minute men have accomplished incalculable good and have been the strong arm of the government in Memphis. There will be widespread regret if these excellent gentlemen are permitted to dissolve and go their several ways when there is every indication that many government calls are yet to be made and their services will be very much needed.

No doubt the same situation exists in other towns and cities throughout the country. There is a likelihood that the organization will be permitted to disintegrate without careful and mature deliberation.

In every enterprising town and city there are many events which the people should be appealed to directly to observe. The mayors issue "clean-up day" proclamations, fire prevention days; they appeal to the people to observe certain rules for the protection of health and for stamping out vice and epidemics. In the past the newspapers have been relied upon solely to make a success of these ventures. They need the assistance of people who will speak directly to the theater and other audiences and to the congregations in the churches.

The advantage of having representatives of the negro race, such as the Rev. T. O. Fuller, the Rev. Sutton E. Griggs, the Rev. J. Q. Johnson, Bert Roddy and other leaders, to impress upon their people the things they should do is incalculable, for the reason that so many do not read the papers, or for the greater reason that they more willingly follow the advice of the men of their race.

Charles A. McElravy, president of the Majestic Amusement company, and one of the public-spirited citizens of Memphis, says if the Four-Minute men continue their organization locally he will pledge them access to the Memphis theaters, and he is able to speak for Ben Stainback and other managers who have co-operated in such a wholehearted manner as to insure the success of the enterprise. If the organization is continued as a state institution, Mr. McElravy believes he speaks for the amusement houses throughout Tennessee in saying that every one will be open to the Four-Minute men.

The News Scimitar suggests that each local organization remain intact, preserving its strength to assist in the large enterprises that the people will be asked to support. From the local organizations a state organization might be formed, with a central head, in order that the work might be conducted for local or state-wide causes, as the case might be.

THE CABLES

Big business in the East is making a great furor because the government has taken over the cables, and the charge is made that Wilson is going to use them for political purposes, and to keep this country in the dark as to what is being done on the other side.

This is worse than folly. Big business owns the telegraphs and the cables, and the taking over will save them. This is why Theodore N. Vail, head of electrical communication, begged the government to relieve the cable and telegraph interests by taking them over.

On the other side about 500,000 cablegrams have been accepted by the cable companies for transmission to this side, and on this side about the same number have been accepted for transmission to Europe.

The cables are overcrowded and these messages cannot be handled. Each delayed communication would mean a damage suit against the cable companies, which would mean disaster. By taking over these cables the government puts an end to these damage suits. Besides this the cable companies have collected toll in advance on all these cablegrams, and the government, when in control, will be in a position to see to it that this money is refunded, and not placed in the hands to the credit of the cable companies. When private ownership found the job of running the railroads too big for it, private ownership was glad to turn the task over to the government. The very same thing has happened to the cable companies. It was to their interest and the interest of the people for them to stand aside when the burden became too great.

PAY FOR TEACHERS

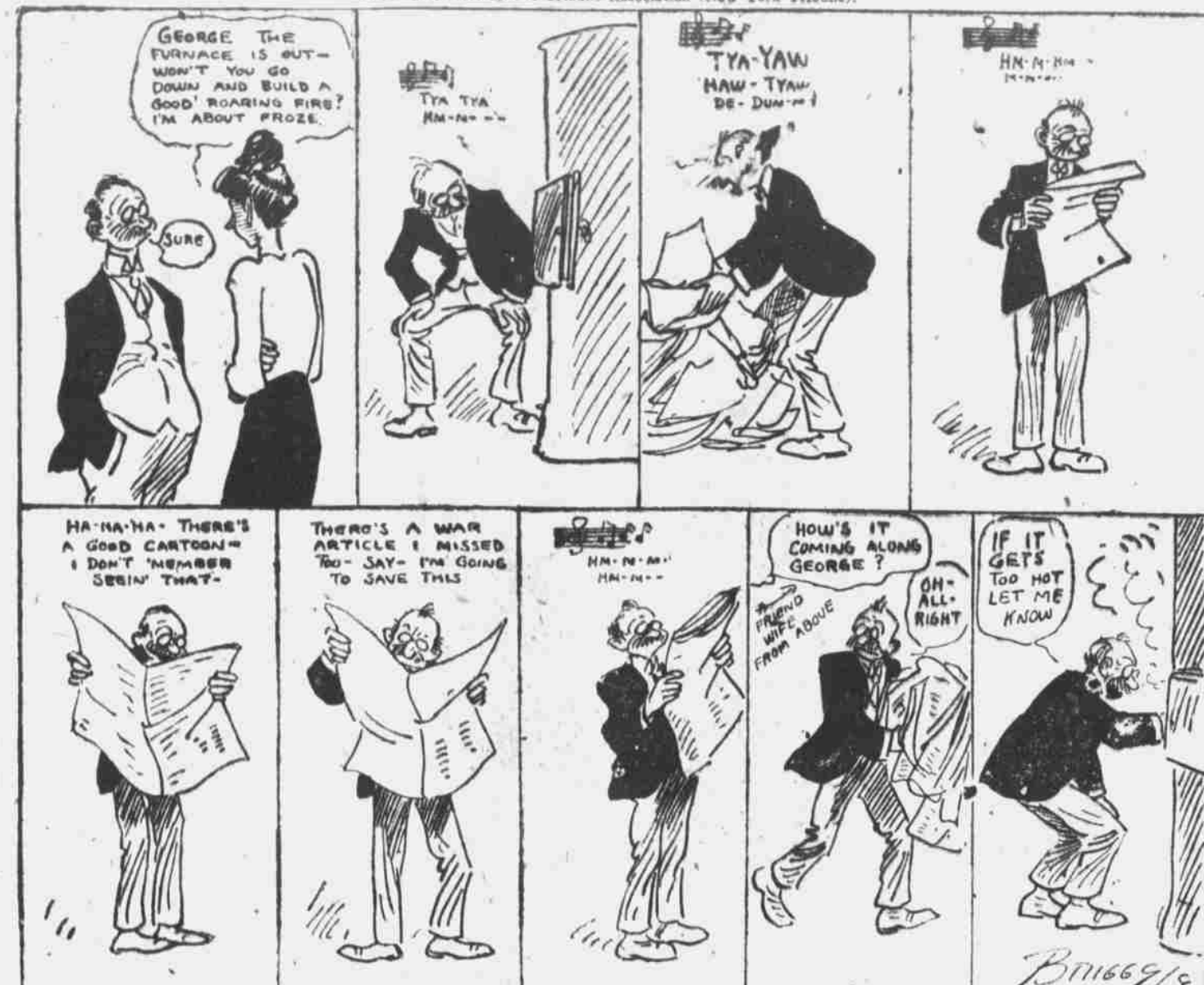
It would be exceedingly unfortunate if the Shelby county delegation in the legislature, or any member of it, should refuse to support the proposed measure giving to the teachers in the city schools the increased pay they were promised last fall on condition that they return to work.

The promise made to the teachers is a solemn obligation entered into in good faith, and to all intents and purposes with the view to being observed. The teachers are carrying out their part of the contract. They have been doing so since September, with faith in those composing the other party to the contract. We cannot afford to have faith rewarded by faithlessness. If the teachers are disappointed and received this time, it will be difficult to pacify them again.

We take it that it is no longer a question of whether they had a right to strike or whether they deserve the increase. The fact is it was promised to them, and they are working with a very definite understanding that it will be forthcoming.

It Happens In the Best Regulated Families—By Briggs

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DOROTHY DIX'S TALK

BY DOROTHY DIX.

The World's Highest Paid Woman Writer.

THE REFORMATION OF PARENTS.

Not long ago in discussing the education of children in school, the superintendent of education of an Eastern school declared it was the parents of bad children who should be whipped instead of the children themselves, for it was the parents who were responsible for sending to school the unruly and uncontrollable boys and girls, the impossibility of dealing with whom on any other platform than that of physical fear had brought up again the problem of reformatory in the schoolroom.

Never was there a truer or a wiser thing said, and the most crying need of the day is for some humanitarian to start a movement for the reformation of parents. They need it more than any other class of people in the world.

No other such crime is being committed as the way in which children are being reared, and life offers no other moral phenomenon so strange and so inexplicable as the attitude that intelligent, refined, upright, noble people take on this subject.

One can understand that criminal parents might raise up a brood of young criminals to prey upon society, but when you find that mothers and fathers of the same, where a whole family is herded together in one room, with no regard for anybody else's right, or comfort, or property.

One can understand how hoodlum mothers and fathers can bring up hoodlum children with neither manners nor courtesy, with no regard for the amenities of life.

But when men and women who are gentlemen and ladies themselves, who are educated in the highest schools of civilization, permit their children to faint the decrees of the law in the face and to routinely trample upon the comfort and peace of everybody who is so fortunate enough to come within their range, the matter becomes one for the investigation of the alienist and the interference of the police.

So far as the victim of the modern child can see, when people pass into the blessed estate of parenthood a miracle is wrought whereby they become deaf and blind to what their own children do, and dumb so far as correcting them is concerned.

Every woman who has to ride in the street cars has daily illustrations of how willing mothers are to sacrifice the good clothes of other women if it affords their own children the slightest enjoyment. Children with muddy little shoes are encouraged to kneel on the seats and wipe their feet on the frocks of every passerby. Children eating bananas and candy smear their devastating way as they go, and mothers smile serenely at the mess they leave behind. Johnny and Susie have a good time. As for the traveling public, mothers should worry!

That no one has any rights that parents feel that their children should respect is too familiar a fact to argue here. Who has not agonized while

mothers sat calmly by and permitted their children to scratch pictures on their hostess' mahogany table? Who has not seen mothers give their children costly illustrated books belonging to someone else, to play with? Who has not had children deliberately take the soap out of their plates and pour it on the cloth at dinner, with never a word of reproach from the besotted parents?

Now, why is this? None of these women would have been vandal enough to destroy your property, though they are mortally offended when you rise to the protection of your household goods and chattels against their children.

People always speak with the loudest condemnation of landlords who refuse to rent their property to tenants who have children. But the ones who should be indicted at the bar of public opinion are not the landlords, but the parents whose children have been so badly brought up that they are a menace to the public welfare and a danger to property.

The worst feature of parental encouragement of terrorism, and frightfulness in children is not the harm done to the child, but the harm done to society as they are to grown people, but it is the injury that is done the child himself. For in these children who are never taught to obey, who are never taught to respect the old, or regard the rights of others, who grow up into hoodlums that break their parents' hearts, and bring their gray hairs down in sorrow to the grave.

We talk a lot about environment, and we have societies for the improvement of the environment of the poor, but we fail to reflect that environment of millions of children in rich homes is just as demoralizing as anything that the slums can offer. Every child that lives in a home where it is spoiled, and its spirit pampered, and it is taught to be selfish and disrespectful of others, is in an environment that is a hot-house forcing all that is worst in his character into bloom, and that produces wayward sons and daughters.

I say again that the crying need of this day is for reformation of parents. But it is a Utopian dream that will never be realized for it requires more nerve and backbone than the average human being possesses.

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JUST LIKE 'EM.

An Alabama soldier had troubles of his own with a mule. "I just couldn't take no interest in dat mule. De ol' critter was all right, but I was fust crack out de box, done bit me in de finger. "While I was sampling" mah finger it up "I kicked me in de pants. "Then dese bush Germans started a gas attack. "I was sposed to put de mask on de mules and den on me. "Den I led dis one around in de gas for two hours and dog my cats. "Nuff' ever happened to dat enery mule at all."



On the Spur of the Moment

by Roy K. Moulton.

The scientists are having a great how-do-over the pleasant art of kissing. Again they want it abolished. Claiming that it spreads. The "flu."

"When is a kiss essential?" They ask, and they answer, "Never."

We seldom agree with scientists. And this time they were wrong again.

There is one kiss that is absolutely and irrevocably essential—

The one you give Your soldier boy When he comes home.

When the final settlement is made we do hope Spain will be penalized for spreading her "flu" propaganda and Sweden for sending us all those punk matches.

It might not be a bad idea to spank Carranza while the old shingle is handy and the good old right arm is in practice.

Our idea of the very limit of indignation and the height of subsequent punishment of a certain w. k. kultir was expressed by a lady friend of ours out in Elmhurst yesterday when she said: "The Kaiser should get what is coming to him. I am so indignant at that man I would like to slap him right in the mouth."

THE "HORRORS OF PEACE."

Book agents. Social "reformers." Poets. Matrimonial agencies. Tight car windows. The boll weevil. Amateur Tetrazzini. Second-hand phonographs. "Oyster" suppers. Railroad ham sandwiches. Glass-cutter salesmen. Night pole lecturers. Girty magazine covers. Cafe roast beef. Vaudeville monologists.

Says a contrib.: "I have never seen a man in overalls who looked anything like the illustrations in the overall advertisements."

EXTRA!

Miss Irma Remnant has just been married in Cleveland. The young lady next door says her uncle, who has been saving up for three months to buy a porterhouse steak, has gone and put it all into Liberty bonds.

Twice Told Tales

News of Memphis 25 Years Ago. News of Memphis 10 Years Ago.

DECEMBER 8, 1903. Gen. Ray T. Reed, of Jackson, Miss., is visiting Memphis for a few days as the guest of Mr. and Mrs. B. J. Clarke. Admission to the social given by the latter auxiliary of the Y. M. C. A. last night netted \$65.50, each one giving in pennies to equal the years he had reached in age.

The Young Men's Business League of Memphis is due much credit toward obtaining the car founded on Col. Bingham's tract east of Memphis.

Dr. R. T. Minor, and bride, see Miss Jennie Gessing, have returned from an extended honeymoon.

President Cleveland's address to the congress yesterday created a sensation over the country relative to the revised tariff.

DECEMBER 8, 1908. Congress will meet tomorrow in the final session of the 60th congress. Fellow sovereigns of the Kaiser have joined the chorus against him, the crown prince is unpopular and the war is characterized as "blooding coffee." As the Balkan peace talks agree that Bulgaria will be independent, much interest centers around the New Chamber of Deputies.

Mr. John Thomas Ferguson, Jr., has returned at her home on Lamar avenue Friday in honor to her mother, Mrs. Robert Bogardus Snowden.

More than 1000 guests were sold for the highly successful variety fair ball at the Hotel Gayoso Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Mass entertained informally at their home in honor of Miss Felsenthal.

BOOK REVIEWS

"TALES FROM A DUGOUT." By Arthur Guy Empey. The reading public will be pleased to know that Empey, the popular author of "Over the Top," has written another book, "Tales From a Dugout," as the title indicates, is much up to date, a most brilliant and interesting book.

The time elapsed since the author returned from the front in France has given him a much more accurate perspective than he could have had without it, and to tell through, many an idea, many a picture that before, but blurred and flying fragments from time of ecstasy. As an author Mr. Empey has deepened and mellowed his humor, has grown richer, and his amazing vitality is as fresh and as exhilarating as ever.

Mr. Empey's new book is said to be the result of a period of leisurely work and it is evident that he has capitalized to the very best literary advantage his remarkable fighting experiences.

The Century company, New York City. Price \$1.50.

"EVERYMAN'S LAND." The co-authors, C. N. and A. M. Williamson, have in "Everyman's Land," given colorful word pictures of the very towns and cities which appear daily in the headlines of your newspaper. The same cathedrals, museums and famous buildings, some of them now in ruins, which were once the pride of France and the whole world, are the scenes of one of the most fascinating adventures these authors have written. Aras, Verdun, Ypres and many other equally famous cities now they ask, the public eye, form a background for this romance. The pictures are so vividly portrayed, that one can almost touch himself, were a part of the story, and viewing these war torn cities in all their splendor.

Intwined in and about these famous places is the story of Mary O'Malley, a romance of stirring battles, and rich with pathos and humor. Doubleday Page & Co., New York. Net \$1.40.

"DAUGHTER OF THE LAND." Those who enjoyed Gene Stratton Porter's "The Land of the Lilies" and "The Harvester" will be delighted with her latest novel, as Daughter of the Land, which is a story of a girl who grows up in the heart of the country, far from the city, yet far surpasses them in genuine inspiration.

Kate Bates is as American as the Goddess of Liberty. She fought for freedom against long odds, renouncing the easy life of a rich man's daughter, and she learned her greatest lesson as America is learning it—that only through sacrifice and sorrow is character built and happiness attained.

The whole book is in tune with the times. It is essentially patriotic in spirit, and emphasizes the tremendous importance to the nation of the lives of those who till the soil.

Lantern, Page & Co., illustrated. Net \$1.40.

"FORTUNE." By Albert Payson Terhune, is a story without a doubt of war in it—a realistic novel of New York life, with a background of newspaper, and the story of a girl who grows up in the heart of the country, far from the city, yet far surpasses them in genuine inspiration.

It is a story which will be read for amusement and in the lives of the characters. How Eve and Brant go down into the valley together and in the fire of adversity, is told with a strength of realism, yet with a delicacy of touch, that no other novel of the work stand forth with large promise.

Doubleday, Page & Co., New York. Net \$1.40.

"THE MAGNIFICENT AMBERSONS." By Booth Tarkington, the popular author of "Penrod," "Seven-teen" and "The American Boy," is another novel—a story of American life during the big growing time in the life of an American city. It is the story of the change that has come upon America in our own lifetime—a change which has come in such a fashion and so rapidly that we are all surprised by our own familiar recognition of it when we find it made into literature in the pages of this story. Every reader will find that he knows the magnificent Ambersons, and has seen in his own life the happenings to them. In fact, he may live next door to them.

Doubleday, Page & Co., New York. Net \$1.40.

"BILLY AND THE MAJOR." A sequel to "Miss Minerva" and "William Green Hill." After the death of Francis Boyd Calhoun, author of "Miss Minerva" and "William Green Hill," the story of the change that has come upon America in our own lifetime—a change which has come in such a fashion and so rapidly that we are all surprised by our own familiar recognition of it when we find it made into literature in the pages of this story. Every reader will find that he knows the magnificent Ambersons, and has seen in his own life the happenings to them. In fact, he may live next door to them.

Reilly, Britton, Chicago. Net \$1.00.

"THE TOWN OF THE MAJOR." A sequel to "Miss Minerva" and "William Green Hill." After the death of Francis Boyd Calhoun, author of "Miss Minerva" and "William Green Hill," the story of the change that has come upon America in our own lifetime—a change which has come in such a fashion and so rapidly that we are all surprised by our own familiar recognition of it when we find it made into literature in the pages of this story. Every reader will find that he knows the magnificent Ambersons, and has seen in his own life the happenings to them. In fact, he may live next door to them.

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Questions and Answers

W. D. R.—Please answer in your paper the following questions: (1) Do the people of England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales speak the same language? (2) Do the people of The Netherlands, Holland, speak a language or languages of practically the same? (3) How old is Billy Root, where did his ancestors reside?

A.—(1) Yes. (2) No, entirely different, the language spoken is Dutch, his ancestors' residence was in New York.

S. A. B.—Please tell me when President Wilson's term expires; there has been a report of his death. Also print the horoscope of Dec. 22, 1915.

A.—(1) March 4, 1917. (2) Sign Capricorn (goat). The Capricorn people in many cases are inclined to study and deep thinking; they usually give much attention to the cultivation of the mind, and admire and worship the intellect; they are hard workers, are not satisfied when working for others. These people are apt to live too much in the external, and are inclined to be arrogant and dictatorial; the gems are white opals and moonstones; colors are brown, blue, silver-gray, and black.

E. M.—Kindly tell me how to pronounce Bonheur?

A.—Bonheur is pronounced ball-shew-er, and is the second syllable in short, accent on the third syllable. The origin of the word is "boon," meaning "big extreme" or "those who want more."

N. Y. Z.—Who represented the allies in the armistice?

A.—Marshall Ferdinand Foch, Admiral Sir Roslyn Wemyss and Maj.-Gen. Massey.

E. A. T.—Please tell me the deepest known place in the ocean.

A.—The deepest place thus far found is the Challenger, Philippine Island, 32,084 feet.

Ing.—Who invented the French flag?

A.—Mary, queen of Scots, invented the tricolor of France, red, white and blue, for Scotland and red for Switzerland.

E. M.—How can I address a letter to a former prisoner of the Germans?

A.—Address it to him in the company and regiment in which he served before capture, at the bottom of envelope put "Formerly prisoner of war in Germany."

E. S.—Where was President Wilson born, and what were his parents?

A.—He was born at Staunton, Va. His ancestors were of the Scotch-Irish race.

THEATERS.

LOEW'S LYCEUM Theater

Continuous 1 to 11 a.m.

TODAY AND TOMORROW

KAPT. KIDDER & CO.

An Operatic Comedy in One Act.

Wilkins & Wilkins

In Their Comedy Recitality "THE TANGO LESSON."

Beth Geo. & Lilly

Challis Garden

Song Cycle. Xylophones.

CHARLES RAY in "The Law of the North."

Matinees 10-15c Nights 10-20-30c

Coming

Frederick & Hope Eden

Get Your Questions Ready.

Cupham

Toto George

MacFarlane

The World's Greatest Clown

Bessie Browning Henry B. Toomer

Next Week: Mlle. Dazie & Co.

MOVING PICTURES.

Low's Princess

Continuous 10 a.m. to 11 p.m.

10c Wonderful Pictures.

Today and Saturday

Dorothy Dalton

in "Green Eyes"

A husband thought his wife loved everyone except him. Things went from bad to worse until poor wife was about to give up the ghost. THEN—you see the cure.

LOEW'S CURRENT EVENTS

Sunday Special—One Day Only

Jack Pickford

Louise Huff, Madge Evans and co-stars in

"Seventeen"

A delightful picture of Booth Tarkington's Novel.